

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 24th November, 1972/3rd Agrahayana,
1894 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

युगांडा के मामले का संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ में
उठाया जाना

*240. श्री ओइम् प्रकाश त्यागी† :

श्री कोटा पुन्नेया :

श्री के० एल० एन० प्रसाद :

क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे
कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने
युगांडा से भारी संख्या में भारतीय मूल के
एशियाई लोगों के निष्कासन के मामले को
संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ में उठाने का निर्णय किया है;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो क्या भारत ने इस
समस्या को हल करने के लिये कोई प्रस्ताव
रखे हैं ;

(ग) उनका कितने देशों ने समर्थन किया
है; और

(घ) उनका क्या परिणाम निकला ?

‡[RAISING OF UGANDA ISSUE IN THE U. N.]

*240. SHRI O. P. TYAGI :

SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH :

SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government
have taken the decision to raise the issue of
expulsion of a large number of Asians of
Indian origin from Uganda in the U. N. ;

(b) if so, whether India has put forward
any proposals to solve the problem ;

(c) how many countries have approved
it ; and

(d) the results thereof ?]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) :

(a) No Sir. As Honourable Members are
aware from my statement in this House on
the 15th November, the expulsion of Asians
has already been completed and about 2,000
Asians are now left in Uganda. The main
problem relates to the residual assets of
Indian nationals who have left the country.
The President of Uganda had given assurances
to the U. N. Secretary-General to the effect
that no such property would be seized without
compensation, and we had also received
similar assurances from the Government of
Uganda. Government are continuing to pursue
this matter and have recently made certain
suggestions to the Uganda Government for
fair and equitable handling of the question of
assets.

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

§[विदेश मंत्री (सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह): (क)
जी नहीं, जैसा कि सम्माननीय सदस्यों को
विदित ही है कि इस सदन में दिनांक 15
नवम्बर को दिये गये मेरे वक्तव्य से युगांडा से
एशियाइयों को निकाले जाने का काम पूरा
किया जा चुका है और अब वहाँ केवल 2,000
एशियाई बचे हैं। अब मुख्य समस्या देश छोड़
कर जाने वाले अभारतीयों की सम्पत्ति की है
जो वहाँ रह गई है। युगांडा के राष्ट्रपति ने
संयुक्त राष्ट्रसंघ के महासचिव को इस आशय
का आश्वासन दिया था कि बिना मुआवजा
ऐसी किसी सम्पत्ति को जप्त नहीं किया जाएगा
और हमें भी युगांडा की सरकार से इसी प्रकार
का आश्वासन मिला था। सरकार इस कार्य में
निरन्तर प्रयत्नशील है और उसने हाल ही में
युगांडा सरकार के परिसम्पत्तियों के न्यायसंगत
हल के लिये कतिपय सुझाव भी दिये हैं।

(ख) से (घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठते]

श्री सभापति : त्यागी जी, आपने सवाल
पूछना है।

श्री ओइम् प्रकाश त्यागी : सभापति महो-

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri O. P. Tyagi.

‡ [] English translation.

§ [] Hindi translation.

दय, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ विशेष रूप से कि भारत सरकार अपने जन्म काल के पूर्व से जब कि कांग्रेस पार्टी के रूप में हम आजादी के लिए लड़ रहे थे, ससार में जहाँ भी अन्याय हुआ उसके लिए लड़ती रही और भारत आजाद होने के बाद भी हम ससार में अन्याय के विरुद्ध लड़ते रहे। मैं यह चीज जानना चाहता हूँ कि युगांडा में रहने वाले भारतीय या एशियन जो भी कहिए उनके साथ अन्याय होता रहा तो उस युगांडा सरकार के विरुद्ध विश्वमत जागृत करने के लिए भारत सरकार ने क्या किया? जहाँ तक जानकारी समाचार-पत्रों से है, भारत सरकार मौन रही और भारत सरकार की अपेक्षा ब्रिटिश सरकार ने विश्वमत जागृत करने के लिए भी ज्यादा प्रयत्न किया, यू० एन० ओ० में भी सवाल उठाया। मैं जानना चाहूँगा कि आपने विश्वमत जागृत करने के लिए क्या प्रयत्न किये और नहीं किये तो क्यों नहीं किये?

सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह : हमने किये हैं, क्योंकि जैसा मैं पहले कई दफा कह चुका हूँ, हमारे प्रधान मंत्री ने कुछ अफ्रीका के बहुत से हेड्स आफ स्टेट को लिखा था। मैंने भी यू० एन० में जब जनरल असेम्बली का सेशन था, उसमें भी मैंने इसके मुत्तालिक मुनासिब कहा था और इसके अलावा और भी बहुत से मुत्कों से हमने इस बात के मुत्तालिक यत्न किया है। यह कहना गलत है कि हमने यत्न नहीं किया।

श्री ओइम् प्रकाश त्यागी : किन-किन मुत्कों से आपने प्रयत्न किया? किन-किन देशों के साथ आपने युगांडा सरकार के विरुद्ध जनमत तैयार करने के लिये प्रयत्न किया और क्या परिणाम हुआ?

सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह : इस वक्त मैं सभी का नाम तो नहीं कह सकता, कुछ का कहूँ तो कहेंगे कि सबका नहीं बताया, इसके लिये सैपरेट नोटिस चाहिए। यह सवाल तो यू० एन० के मुत्तालिक था।

श्री ओइम् प्रकाश त्यागी : दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि युगांडा में जो भारतीय लोग या नागरिक वहाँ से निकल आये, जो निष्कासित

हो गये हैं उनके साथ रास्ते में युगांडा की पुलिस और युगांडा की सेना ने उनका माल छीना, उनकी बेइज्जती की और उनकी प्रापर्टी वही रह गई है। इसकी सुरक्षा के लिये और उनको प्रापर्टी का मुआवजा मिले और रास्ते में उनके साथ इस प्रकार की छीना-झपटी और लूट हुई, उसके सम्बन्ध में सरकार ने क्या स्टेप्स लिये?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : We did receive reports of maltreatment of persons in transit and we had also received reports about snatching of the belongings of some of these people who were in transit. We took this matter up with Government of Uganda and they did provide escorts for taking people to the airport of Entebbe. They also put some security guards on the trains when they were in transit. Along with these people, we also put our own people from the High Commission.

And, Sir, these complaints then, by and large, disappeared.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Patel.

SHRI T. K. PATEL : Sir, may I know from the honourable Minister whether the Government is aware of the fact that some of the Indians living in Uganda are missing and whether the Government is aware of the number of those persons who are missing?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Sir, we have received some reports in this connection although in some cases, later on, those persons were actually amongst the group that had gone abroad. But there are one or two prominent names in this connection about which questions had been asked earlier also. Unfortunately, Sir, they have not yet been traced.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes. Mr. Malaviya.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIA : Sir, there are reports in the Press that the Government of Kenya is also falling in line with the Government of Uganda. Is our Government aware of these things and, if so, what steps is the Government taking to see that the Kenyan Indians are not treated in the same way?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think this question is not related to the main one.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Yes, Sir, it is not related to the main question. Any

way, I would like to clarify the position lest it should leave a wrong impression in the minds of our own people or the people in Kenya. I would like to state that these people are already facing a difficult problem and it would be very wrong on our part to increase their difficulties by exaggerating the situation. The Kenya situation is not similar to the Ugandan situation and we should not, therefore, equate the two. It is true that in Kenya there is the problem of granting of work permits and licences and this was in the case of certain categories and they had been extended to a certain date. This relates only to a particular category of people who are engaged in a particular type of activity, business activity, mostly small-scale distributive trade. The problem in Kenya is entirely different from the problem in Uganda and it would be wrong for us to equate the two.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Dr. Bhai Mahavir.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Sir, on this very issue some days back, when the Calling-Attention motion was being discussed, the attention of the honourable Minister was drawn to the reported statement of the Deputy High Commissioner that four Indian girls had been kidnapped and they had been raped and they were somehow enabled to escape, but they were kidnapped again. The honourable Minister had said at that time that he had no information of this type. Now, Sir, I want to know whether he has been able to verify whether there was any truth in that reported statement and, if so, we would like to know the truth.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Sir, I remember, this question was raised by an honourable Member of this House, Mr. Shahi and I made enquiries immediately and the result of the enquiry was that the Deputy High Commissioner had never made such a statement and he had sent a telegram and the allegation about the girls was absolutely incorrect. I told this to Shri Shahi and I also informally showed it to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, the outcome of that enquiry. Of course, Sir, we will do the normal duty of sending a formal communication also to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat as a fulfilment of the assurance. But, Sir, I did make an enquiry and this is the outcome of that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Pande.

SHRI C. D. PANDE : Sir, it is a sad state of helplessness for our people since the

days of expulsion of Indians from Burma, from Ceylon and from Zanzibar and so on. Every time the Foreign Minister says, "What can we do ? They are all sovereign countries and they can do what they like. It is a *fait accompli*" and all that. Sir, when he was dealing with this question formerly in this House, we had asked...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Pande, please put the question. Do not give too long a background by mentioning the Ceylon problem or the Burma issue.

SHRI C. D. PANDE : What I say is that at one time he could have settled this and he could have done that. But he said, "We are doing our best" and if he has not succeeded and if we ask, he says, "You see, what can we do ? It is a *fait accompli*." I want to know from the Government what definite and proper steps they took. I want to know whether they sent any high-power delegation to Uganda to expedite matters. Do you expect to achieve anything by sending some junior officer like Deputy Secretary or somebody to talk to their Government who is not having an ambassador's rank and, therefore, he would not be able to accomplish anything ?

Then you say that the Prime Minister wrote letters to several Heads of State...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please put your question.

SHRI C. D. PANDE : The question is : What are the positive steps they have taken, and what further steps are they taking ? Secondly,...

MR. CHAIRMAN : No secondly. I won't allow it...

SHRI C. D. PANDE : ... we stand for Afro-Asian solidarity and our friends are never tired of this. May I know whether this is compatible with Afro-Asian solidarity or not ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Sir, I must say that the hon. Member who generally does his home work, is on this occasion completely ignorant. The officer who was sent as Foreign Minister's special representative is a very senior officer in the Foreign Office. He is an Additional Secretary and he has occupied Ambassador's post in several countries. He is a very outstanding officer and a very senior one. So it is not proper to belittle it by saying that he was just a Joint Secretary

and did not have the rank of even an Ambassador. I would like to remind the hon. Member—he is a great man, a big man—that even Joint Secretaries are very high officers in all Ministries. They are of the rank of Commissioner, and there is no use belittling these things...

SHRI C. D. PANDE: Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't interrupt... *(Interruptions)*... Let him finish. I won't allow any interruptions like this. Yes, please.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: We can do shouting as the hon. Member also does at times. But there is no result of shouting...

MR. CHAIRMAN: First the answer must be complete...

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: It is unfair on the part of Minister...

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the answer be complete...

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: It is unfair...

SHRI C. D. PANDE: It is not dignified...

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Shouting is very much parliamentary and I stick to it. I think the hon. Member would try to understand me. I said that we can also do shouting in the international community just as the hon. Member is shouting. But just as his shouting does not produce any result, so our shouting also would not have produced any result. We should deal with these matters with the seriousness that they require. And the hon. Member still has a hang over of the British period in handling these matters. I would like to say that the British in this case were good because they had squarely taken the responsibility of taking British passport holders. Therefore, I have acknowledged publicly, and I would like to repeat, that they did their duty properly. But in the context of raising it formally in the United Nations or raising it in any other international forum, both the British and we did realise that we cannot achieve much. We can raise this matter with a view to involving some of the international community members and we did succeed in getting the Secretary-General interested in this problem and I have said already that certain assurance had been given

by President Amin to Secretary-General. So, we also have taken it up both bilaterally and also in the international community. And I normally do not give out secrets, but even Mr. Pande is reported to have said that he also thought that nothing more can be done but "as members of the Opposition we have to criticize".

STRIKES AND LOCKOUTS IN PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

*241. SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL:
DR. K. NAGAPPA ALVA: †

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring forward any legislation to ban strikes and lockouts in public sector undertakings; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the employees of the undertakings?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

DR. K. NAGAPPA ALVA: The Government must set an example in the matter of good administration, greater production and industrial peace and progress in the public sector undertakings. But the position is quite the reverse. The number of man days lost, decline in production, industrial unrest and also I must say, indiscipline and violence because of frequent strikes in this sector as well as in other sectors in public life have shaken the very foundation of our democracy. So, Sir, will the Government seriously consider about bringing forward a legislation to ban strikes and lockouts and at the same time, provide adequate safeguards to protect the interests of labour?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: Sir, as the hon. Member knows, we do not discriminate or the Government does not discriminate between public and private sector undertakings. Therefore, the question of bringing forward any sort of legislation to ban the strikes in public sector does not arise.

DR. K. NAGAPPA ALVA: Sir, the Minister has avoided the question altogether.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. K. Nagappa Alva.